Yield Rate of Foodgrains in Orissa

307. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Orissa the yield rate of foodgrains is nearly half and the fertilizer consumption is less than half of the national average; and

(b) if so, what are the measures suggested to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The fertiliser consumption per hectare and yield rate of Orissa vis-a-vis All-India during 1995-96 to 1998-99 is given below:

	Fertiliser Consumption (kgs of N+P+K)		Yield Rate (kg/Hect)	
	Orissa	All India	Orissa	All India
1995-96	24.57	74.38	1201	1491
1996-97	25.94	76.69	903	1614
1997-98	30.01	86.77	1206	1551
1998-99	30.94	90.04	1082	1611

(b) In order to increase the production and productivity of cereal crops a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development programme in Rice Based Cropping SystemAreas (ICDP — Rice) is being implemented in the State. Under the Scheme, assistance for propogation of improved production technology, technology transfer through training of farmers, varietial replacement of seeds and propogation of new germplasm etc. is provided. For Promotion of Pulses, National Pulses Development Project is being implement in Orissa under which Financial assistance is being provided to farmers for seed, minor irrigation, agricultural machinery besides technical support through extention.

Further to increase consumption of fertilizers in low fertilizer consuming States like Orissa, efforts are being made to encourage alternative sources of plant materials like bio-fertilizers, organic manure etc. The following specific measures have been taken to improve fertiliser consumption:

* The Government of India have approved establishment of three bio-fertilizer production units in Orissa, in addition to establishing a Regional Bio-fertilizer Development Centre to make available adequate supply of Bio-fertilizers to the farmers.

* Under the centrally sponsored scheme of balanced and integrated use of fertilizers, 8 soil testing labs were strengthened during VIIIth Plan in the state and 2 labs were strengthened during 1998-99.